

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SPC-03 PM-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 NSC-10

AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 IO-14 DRC-01 OMB-01 /127 W

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R 060512Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9639

INFO CINCPAC

USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T SAIGON 20457

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MILI VS

SUBJECT: MILITARY ACTION IN QUANG DUC PROVINCE, DECEMBER 4, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

HEREWITH FOL TEL FM NHA TRANG 0991 12/5/73 ACTION SAIGON INFO
USDAO SAIGON REPT'D FOR UR INFO QTE

S E C R E T NHA TRANG 0991

DAO FOR AOSOP-OR/IS/IX

1. FOLLOWING IS THE BEST PICTURE WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PUT
TOGETHER FROM FRAGMENTARY AND OFTEN CONFUSING AND CONTRADICTIONARY
REPORTS OF ACTION IN QUANG DUC ON DECEMBER 4, 1973.

2. A. DAK SONG AREA:

-- AT 0710 THREE KMS WEST OF DAK SONG (YU 693447) AN
UNKNOWN SIZED ENEMY FORCE SPEARHEADED BY TANKS ATTACKED THE
89TH RANGER BATTALION. ONE ENEMY TANK WAS KILLED.

-- CAPTURED DOCUMENTS INDICATED THE 271ST ENEMY REGIMENT,
IN POSITION WEST OF DAK SONG, HAD ORDERS TO STAY IN PLACE AND
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AWAIT TANK REINFORCEMENTS AT WHICH TIME THEY WERE TO ATTACK

AND RETAKE DAK SONNG.

-- ACCORDING TO PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE, THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF ENEMY ARMOR ON QL-14 BETWEEN DAK SONG AND BU PRANG.

B. BU PRANG AREA:

-- ABOUT 0600 FOUR KMS SOUTH OF BU PRANG (YU 693447) AN NVA FORCE WITH TANKS ASSAULTED THE 2/53. TWO ENEMY TANKS WERE REPORTED DESTROYED, ONE ARVNAF KIA, 30 ENEMY KIA.

-- FROM 0600-1100 TEN KMS SOUTH OF BU PRANG AN ENEMY UNIT OF UNKNOWN SIZE SPEARHEADED BY TANKS HIT THE 2/42. TWO TANK KILLS CLAIMED; NO OTHER CASUALTIES REPORTED.

C. KIEN DUC AREA:

-- AT 0410 NVA DROPPED SOME 60 ROUNDS OF 81 MM INTO THE 53RD REGIMENTAL HQ LOCATED AT KIEN DUC DISTRICT CENTER. SOME HOUSES BURNED. NO CASUALTIES AMONG REFUGEES AND CIVILIANS IN THE TOWN. SAPPER ELEMENTS INFILTRATED THE AREA.

-- AT 0410, 0620 AND 1120 NHON CO AIRFIELD HIT BY ENEMY MORTAR FIRE. FIELD UNUSABLE.

-- 1030 FIRST CO, 2ND BN, 73RD REGT RECEIVED ATTACK AT YU 6941. UNIT LOST OR DESTROYED 2 OF ITS 105'S. THE COMPANY MOVED TO THE BN COMMAND POST AT YU 7040. ENEMY LOST 2 T-54 TANKS.

-- AN UNKNOWN SIZED NVA UNIT WITH ARTILLERY WAS LOCATED 1 KM SOUTH OF KIEN DUC ALONG QL-14. ANOTHER ENEMY UNIT WAS ALSO LOCATED 1 KM SOUTH OF TOWN ON TL-334 AND NVA TANKS WERE OBSERVED MOVING ALONG SIDE QL-14 FROM PHOUC LONG TOWARD KIEN DUC TO REINFORCE NVA UNITS AROUND THE TOWN.

-- AT 1330 2 KMS SOUTHWEST OF KIEN DUC AN NVA FORCE WITH TANKS ASSAULTED THE SUB-SECTOR HEADQUARTERS. THREE TANKS REPORTED KILLED.

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-- 1830 AN ENEMY FORCE LED BY 20 TANKS OVERRAN THE 53RD REGIMENT HEADQUARTERS AT KIEN DUC FORCING THE DEFENDERS TO PULL OUT. CONTACT LOST WITH THE REGIMENTAL COMMAND POST.

-- SOME 100 CIVILIANS WERE REPORTED KILLED OR WOUNDED IN THE FIGHTING AROUND KIEN DUC AND ABOUT 1,000 HAVE REPORTEDLY FLED TO NHON CO AIRFIELD.

D. OTHER:

-- THE PROVINCE CHIEF REPORTS THE 45TH ARVN REGIMENT
FROM KONTUM FLOWN TO BAN ME THUOT DECEMBER 4 TO BE AIRLIFTED
TO GIA NGHIA DECEMBER 5.

3. WE WOULD EMPHASIZE THE TENATIVE NATURE OF THESE FIRST
REPORTS.

4. ALSO SEE FVN 4268 AND 4269 FOR REPORTS FROM II CORPS
HEADQUARTERS ON THIS ACTION.

5. DARLO CUMMINGS DEPARTED BY HELICOPTER FOR GIA NGHIA AT
DAWN THIS MORNING. CHOPPER WILL STAND BY TO EVACUATE PERSONNEL
IF NECESSARY. WILL REPORT FURTHER ON CUMMINGS RETURN.
SPEAR
UNQTE
MARTIN

SECRET

NNN

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